

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1 to 59 (Cancelled)

60. (New) A method of producing a composite sheet-form fastener product, the method comprising:

introducing first and second resin materials to a rotary mold roll to form a continuous sheet product having a continuous web;

molding an array of fastener element stems from at least one of the resin material in cavities defined by the mold roll, the fastener element stems extending from one broad surface of the web; and then

permanently stretching the web of the sheet-form product.

61. (New) The method of claim 60 wherein introducing the first and second resin materials to the mold roll pre-orientes a molecular structure of the resin materials in a longitudinal direction.

62. (New) The method of claim 60 wherein the fastener element stems are molded exclusively of the first resin material.

63. (New) The method of claim 60 wherein the melting point temperature of the first resin material is higher than the melting point temperature of the second resin material.

64. (New) The method of claim 60 wherein the glass transition temperature of the first resin material is substantially higher than the glass transition temperature of the second resin material.

65. (New) The method of claim 60 wherein stretching includes widthwise stretching of the web in a manner that permanently stretches the web and increases widthwise spacing of the fastener elements stems.

66. (New) The method of claim 60 further including forming engageable heads on the fastener element stems.

67. (New) The method of claim 66 wherein the engageable heads are molded integrally with the fastener element stems.
68. (New) The method of claim 60 wherein the fastener element stems comprise hook-shaped elements.
69. (New) The method of claim 60 wherein stretching includes heating the web after molding.
70. (New) The method of claim 69 wherein the heating renders the base of the web permanently stretchable without detrimental change to the shape of the fastener element stems.
71. (New) The method of claim 69 wherein the web is heated predominantly from a side opposite the side from which the fastener elements extend.
72. (New) The method of claim 60 comprising controlling the temperature of the web as the web is stretched.
73. (New) The method of claim 72 comprising immersing the fastener element stems in a temperature-controlled liquid during stretching.
74. (New) The method of claim 72 comprising immersing the web in a temperature-controlled liquid during stretching.
75. (New) The method of claim 72 comprising heating the web in a heated liquid bath during stretching, while leaving the fastener elements substantially exposed to air.
76. (New) The method of claim 60 wherein the first and second resin materials are introduced to the mold roll in an overlapped configuration.
77. (New) The method of claim 76 wherein the first resin material directly contacts an outer surface of the mold roll and supports the second resin material against the mold roll.
78. (New) The method of claim 77 wherein the second resin material is isolated from the mold roll by the first resin material.

79. (New) The method of claim 60 wherein introducing the first and second resin materials includes extruding each of the first and second resin materials from corresponding portions of an extrusion die.

80. (New) The method of claim 79 wherein the first and second resin materials are each extruded through discrete, spaced-apart die apertures.

81. (New) The method of claim 80 wherein the die apertures comprise laterally overlapping slots.

82. (New) A method of producing a multi-layer sheet-form fastener product, the method comprising:

forming from at least two different resin materials a running web having a multiplicity of rows of discrete fastener elements integral with and protruding from at least one side of the web; and thereafter, under conditions in which the web is permanently stretchable, stretching the web in a bias direction in a manner that permanently stretches the web between fastener elements, increasing the spacing of the fastener elements .

83. (New) The method of claim 82 wherein the discrete fasteners are substantially formed from one of the resin materials.

84. (New) The method of claim 82 wherein the elements are formed to face in a substantially longitudinal direction, and wherein the stretching orients the rows of fastener elements in a direction diagonal to the longitudinal direction, to face the elements in a substantially diagonal direction.

85. (New) The method of claim 83 wherein the first and second resin materials are introduced to the mold roll in an overlapped configuration.

86. (New) The method of claim 85 wherein the first resin material directly contacts an outer surface of the mold roll and supports the second resin material against the mold roll.

87. (New) The method of claim 86 wherein the second resin material is isolated from the mold roll by the first resin material.

Applicant : Keith G. Buzzell et al.  
Serial.No. : Not yet assigned  
Filed : June 24, 2003  
Page : 6 of 6

Attorney's Docket No.: 05918-110003

88. (New) The method of claim 83 wherein introducing the first and second resin materials includes extruding each of the first and second resin materials from corresponding portions of an extrusion die.
89. (New) The method of claim 88 wherein the first and second resin materials are each extruded through discrete, spaced-apart die apertures.
90. (New) The method of claim 89 wherein the die apertures comprise laterally overlapping slots.